

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended): An accessory mounting device and track assembly, for mounting an accessory to a track provided on a boat, the device comprising:

an accessory mounting bracket;

a slide connector including a first portion having an enlarged width that fits within the track and a second portion having an enlarged width that fits within the accessory mounting bracket, and a reduced width portion that connects the first portion and the second portion;

the second portion over which the accessory mounting bracket is slid to secure the accessory mounting bracket to the track, the accessory mounting bracket being slid over the slide connector in a direction generally parallel to the track;

~~the slide connector including a first enlarged width portion that fits within the mounting bracket, a second enlarged width portion that fits within the track, and a reduced width portion that connects the first and second enlarged width portions;~~

the slide connector being generally symmetrical in cross section and generally I-beam shaped;

the accessory mounting bracket being of a complementary shape to accommodate and receive the slide connector; and

the slide connector and accessory mounting bracket being selectively positionable within the track in a plurality of locations.

2. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the accessory mounting bracket and the slide connector each have a plastic construction.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original): The device of claim 1, further comprising a cam for causing the accessory mounting bracket to be compressed against the track as the accessory mounting bracket is slid over the slide connector.

5. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the accessory mounting bracket and the slide connector includes a ramp for causing the accessory mounting bracket to be drawn against the track as the accessory mounting bracket is slid over the slide connector.

6. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the slide connector includes at least two pieces.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original): The device of claim 1, further comprising an accessory mounted to the accessory mounting bracket.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Amended): An accessory mounting device for mounting an accessory to a track, the device comprising:

an accessory mounting bracket defining a receptacle having an interior region and a through-opening and an exterior of the accessory mounting bracket;

a connector including a first enlarged width portion separated from a second enlarged width portion by an intermediate portion, the second enlarged width portion being configured to be received within the interior region of the receptacle, the intermediate portion being configured to extend through the through-opening of the receptacle when the second enlarged width portion is positioned within the interior region of the receptacle, and the first enlarged width portion being configured to fit within the track;

the receptacle including an open end for allowing the second enlarged width portion of the connector to be inserted into the interior region and the intermediate portion of the connector to be inserted through the through-opening of the receptacle; and

the connector being generally symmetrical in cross-section, and the accessory mounting bracket being of a complementary shape to mate with the connector.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Amended): The device of claim 12, further comprising a moveable door for closing the open end of the receptacle after the connector has been inserted into the receptacle.

15. (Original): The device of claim 12, further comprising a cam structure for drawing the accessory mounting bracket toward the track as the connector is inserted into the receptacle such that the accessory mounting bracket is clamped against the track.

16. (Original): The device of claim 15, wherein the cam structure includes a ramp surface.

17. (Original): The device of claim 16, wherein the ramp surface is provided within the receptacle.

18. (Original): The device of claim 12, wherein the connector includes at least 2 separate pieces that are positioned together.

19. (Original): The device of claim 18, wherein the connector includes 2 generally half-pieces.

20. (Original): The device of claim 12, wherein the receptacle includes an elongated channel, wherein the through-opening includes a through-slot, and wherein the connector has a generally I-beam shaped configuration.

21. (Previously Amended): The device of claim 12, wherein the track is provided on a boat.

22. (Previously Amended): An accessory mounting device comprising:

an accessory mount defining an elongated channel having an interior region and a length that extends between first and second ends, the channel also including a through-slot that extends along the length of the channel, the through-slot providing communication between the interior region and an exterior of the accessory mount;

an elongated connector including, a length that extends between first and second ends, the connector including an enlarged width portion configured to fit within the interior region of the channel and a reduced width portion configured to extend through the through-slot of the channel when the enlarged width portion of the connector is positioned within the interior region of the channel, the connector being

positioned within the channel by inserting the connector through the first end of the channel; and

the elongated connector being generally symmetrical in cross-section, and the accessory mounting device being of a complementary shape to mate with the connector.

23. (Original): The device of claim 22, further comprising a moveable door for closing the first end of the channel after the connector has been inserted within the channel.

24. (Previously Amended): An accessory mounting device for mounting an accessory to a track, the device comprising:

an accessory mount defining an elongated channel having a length that extends between first and second ends, the channel also including a through-slot that extends along the length of the channel, the channel further including an interior region that extends along the length of the channel, the through-slot providing communication between the interior region and an exterior of the accessory mount, the channel having a depth that extends in a direction from the exterior of the accessory mount through the through-slot to the interior region, the through-slot and the interior region having widths measured in a direction generally transverse relative to the length and the depth of the channel, the width of the through-slot being smaller than the width of the interior region;

an elongated connector including a length that extends between first and second ends, the connector also including a first enlargement separated from a second enlargement by an intermediate portion, the second enlargement being configured to be received within the interior region of the channel, the intermediate portion being configured to extend through the through-slot of the channel when the second

enlargement is positioned within the interior region of the channel, and the first enlargement being configured to fit within the track; and

the elongated connector being generally symmetrical in cross-section, and the accessory mounting device being of a complementary shape to mate with the connector.

25. (Original): The device of claim 24, wherein the first end of the channel is open for allowing the connector to be inserted into the channel.

26. (Original): The device of claim 25, further comprising a moveable door for closing the first end of the channel after the connector has been inserted into the channel.

27. (Original): The device of claim 24, further comprising a cam structure for drawing the accessory mount toward the track as the connector is inserted into the channel such that the accessory mount is pressed against the track.

28. (Original): The device of claim 27, wherein the cam structure includes a ramp surface.

29. (Original): The device of claim 28, wherein the ramp surface is provided within the channel.

30. (Original): The device of claim 24, wherein the connector includes at least 2 separate pieces that are positioned together.

31. (Original): The device of claim 24, wherein the connector includes 2 generally half-pieces.

32. (Original): The device of claim 24, wherein the connector has a generally I-beam shaped configuration.

33. (Original): The device of claim 24, wherein the track is provided on a boat.

34. (Original): The device of claim 24, wherein the accessory mount and the connector are plastic.

35. (Original): An accessory mounting device for mounting an accessory to a track defining a first channel including an interior region accessible through an access slot, the device comprising:

an accessory mount defining an elongated second channel having a length that extends between first and second ends, the second channel also including a through-slot that extends along the length of the second channel, the second channel, the second channel further including an interior region that extends along the length of the second channel, the through-slot providing communication between the interior region of the second channel having widths measured in a direction generally transverse relative to the length and the depth of the second channel, the width of the through-slot being smaller than the width of the interior region of the second channel; and

a connector for connecting the accessory mount to the track, the connector including a first flange separated by a second flange by an intermediate portion, the first flange being configured to be received within the interior region of the second channel, and the intermediate web being configured to extend through the access slot of the first channel and the through-slot of the second channel when the first flange is positioned within the interior region of the first channel and the second flange is positioned within the interior region of the second channel;

the connector being positioned in the second channel by inserting the connector through the first end of the second channel and sliding the connector along the length of the second channel;

the connector including at least 2 separate pieces; and

either the connector or the accessory mount including a cam structure for causing the accessory mount to be compressed against the track as the connector is inserted into the channel.

36. (Original): The device of claim 35, wherein the connector is generally I-beam shaped.